



Volume 28

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

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Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

August QRP, September Picnic

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

August brought us the presentation by Dave KD6DW and Peter KJ6VCM on QRP operations. They shared examples of radios, antennas, and various sources of power. QRP operation is big in San Diego; a number of people take regular trips to local mountains, as well as a few who activate peaks for S.O.T.A. QRP also is a mainstay of disaster communications, stretching battery life to get the traffic passed. Even more to the heart of Amateur Radio QRP radio kits are a gateway to electronics, and RF engineering for the young amateur radio operator. The very same kits are a doorway for those who are older / retired into truly rewarding aspect of the hobby.

Amateur Radio is, and always has been the oldest worldwide social network. No middle man, No overage charges, and some of the nicest people on the planet to talk to.

73'

Sue AF6LJ



ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



ARCEC Picnic

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon held it's annual picnic at Nancy Jane Part this last September 21st. We had a small turnout, whichg did not dampen the festivities. Bill a prospective member showed up and was welcomed by all. Dave KD6DW brought his QRP radio and did some listening and attempted to make a few contacts. Conditions were not so good, and a birthday party on the other side of the park fired up a generator powering a children's attraction caused excessive noise bringing an end to the day's DX'ing. As fate would have it; it was time to start up lunch anyway.

There was plenty of good food, and conversation. All the usual topics of conversation, DX, Ham Radio in general, and other stuff. We had a wonderful time.

My Roommate Shelley, and her Chesapeake Bay Retriever Amber joined us for the picnic. Amber who loves her hamburger raw, and on a hot day frozen had her "Meat-Cycle", and some water for lunch. All were happy, and Amber got to explore a new park, She was happy. Everyone had a good time, went home with a full stomach, and happy memories of a good time had by all.

73'

Sue, AF6LJ



Train Wreck

Anybody who has lived in in the mid west has seen those mile-plus long freight trains crossing the countryside. Their mass is hard to imagine without a lot of help. When something happens to provide a sudden source of resistance to the all that mass moving forward at 45+ miles per hour the chain of events can be long lasting until everything comes to rest. A lot of damage, and a lot of good hardware is turned to scrap metal in the course of as much as several tens of minutes. The J.J. Abrams movie Super 8 has a great example of such a train wreck. In my life such an event led to several other events that had disrupted my life and as a result interfered with my duties to this club. I am not coming to you as "The Victim", but more like the target of a confluence of events that has disrupted normal life here at the Small RF Lab in South Park.

In May; I broke my contact lens while trying to remove it from where it was caught between the two halves of its holder. It would take three months to acquire enough funds to replace it. Problems with my health insurance contributed to this. Issue. The problem will cease to exist in a few weeks, when I get better insurance. While this didn't stop me from doing Field Day and the May, June and July issues of Counterpoise; I would be a liar if I didn't say it made everything twice as hard.

As we moved into July VHF radio issues became a problem, I had a broken patch cable, along with a broken antenna on my Kenwood TH-F6 handheld, and my main light fixture had a broken switch. No high power lights to get things done. My personal projects all were on hold. All of these things money is needed to fix, they would be delayed while I saved up the \$450.00 for a new lens.

While my personal projects were on hold, that didn't apply to other projects. Some of which didn't require any money at all in order for completion. Keeping the RF Lab running is a good way to keep my mind off my problems. While this only works to a point, it worked for a while.

Harley; He came to us in 2009 (as I remember) as a puppy who was going to be my roommate's project dog. Harley (CH Marnetts Wish For The Moon) had a short career as a champion Chesapeake Bay retriever. His Career was cut short due to a seizure disorder. He was retired and enjoyed the life as a family pet here at home with my roommate and I. Earlier this year my roommate acquired Amber (Marnetts Frozen In Time) back in early spring. Early in August Amber became sick, Harley also came down with the same "bug" and within 72 hours he was gone. Below is Harley, and his co-owner as he earned his Championship (breed conformation). Now for the really hard stuff.



Back in late July I received a call from a weak station, the voice was one I had not heard in 25 years. Fred KA6DTK, very long time friend came back into my life. Fred first came into my life in the early 70s, we became friends, and he gave me one of the most precious gifts other than his friendship which lasted nearly fifty years, Fred introduced me to the wonders of RF. I was already into radio thanks to a conspiracy launched by my father, and carried out by him and his brother who was a CB'er at the time. I won't go into the details of just how this career got launched other than to say I was handed a chassis that used to be some piece of "CB gear" and his copy of the 1972 ARRL Handbook. Yah I was bit by the RF bug.... Fred would come and go throughout my life. I was considered a member of his family, and a member of his parents family as well. Every friendship has it's rough spots, we never let those spots get in the way of our adoration for each other. God called him home on September 18th. I will miss him sorely. Tell your friends how much you appreciate them while you can, because sometimes life can become a train wreck.

Next Month's Meeting

GENE - WB9COY P-25 & Digital Audio

WAMO Net Rebirth

Steve AJ6IT has brought the Wednesday WAMO Net back from its long hibernation. The WAMO Net is a controlled net for members, and non-members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. The net meets every Wednesday starting with early check-ins at 7:45 PM Pacific time. Come and join us for the WAMO net.

Club Shirts & Jackets

We have green, pocketed 2013 Field Day club shirts available in sizes S (2), M (1), and L (8) for \$10 each. Our standard Club Shirts have no pocket and are in sizes M (10), L (4), 2XL (7), 3XL (4), 4XL (5) for \$10 each. Sizes are limited to stock on hand.

Lined Windbreaker Jackets are also available in sizes L (1) and XL (7) for \$24 each. These have side pockets with snap closure.

Donut Net

Monday nights after dinner the Donut Net can be found on the ARCEC VHF repeater. Axel KI6RRN hosts a fun filled net with trivia questions and other activities. The net is a great place to spend that after dinner and before prime TV time. Come and join Axel for fun and fellowship with your fellow hams every Monday at 7:00 PM.

Support Our Local Businesses



Membership Badges & Pins

All members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon who might wish to obtain a membership badge can contact Dell Awards and place an order with them. They are our current preferred source for these badges, and have our logo and design on file and ready to create a custom badge for members. Current price is \$7.50 per badge and they have indicated that there is normally a 3 business day turnaround time. These are quality badges made by a long established company, so place yours on order soon. They can be reached at the below address and phone number, and be sure to mention you saw this blurb in the Counterpoise newsletter too.

Dell Awards

7949 Broadway

Lemon Grove, CA 91945

(619) 469-2100

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm

Sat 10am-1pm

Sun - Closed

Club Pins Now Available:

They have arrived! A limited number of club pins are now here and can be obtained from our Treasurer at most club functions. These are 1" diameter pins with a rubber clutch pin on rear. You can now show the world your support of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, and for the small cost of \$3.00 each too. Get them while they are available.





The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**^{Inc.}
WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: ___ / ___ / ___

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash Check Check # _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20/year) Family* (\$35/year)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign First Name _____ Last Name _____

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other

Email Address (required) _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

**Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

Submitting this form:

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at www.wa6bgs.us which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.